

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

73-4708/A

DDI-4162-73

18 AUG 1973

Honorable Stuart Symington
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Symington:

Thank you very much for passing on to me a copy of Senator Proxmire's letter to you of 8 August 1973. I am happy to give you my comments on the points he raises and particularly appreciate the opportunity to deal directly with some of the misconceptions about the Agency that arise from time to time and cause concern in the Congress.

As to the future of the Office of National Estimates, I am indeed reviewing organization structures throughout the Agency, including that of the Board of National Estimates. I have thus far reached no decision on this question but can assure you that National Intelligence Estimates will continue to be produced, that they will continue to be the responsibility of the Director of Central Intelligence, that their objectivity will be sustained, and that in their production the full resources of the entire intelligence community will be utilized. The only question, really, is how most efficiently and effectively to staff out this process, and I will, of course, let you know promptly the results of my examination of this problem.

As to Senator Proxmire's second point concerning the 1971 reorganization plan, I am aware of no serious proposal to disband CIA's analytical responsibilities or consolidate the analytical function within the

National Security Council. The National Security Council staff in fact does a certain amount of its own analysis, but this is entirely separate and apart, and has no bearing on, CIA's analytical responsibilities or capabilities. Senator Proxmire may have heard something of proposals which were tentatively advanced as far back as 1960 suggesting that the Director of Central Intelligence, in order to carry out his coordinating responsibilities more effectively, remove himself from the Agency and associate more closely with the White House staff, taking with him in the process some portion of the Agency's estimative resources. Such suggestions have been repeatedly discarded as unrealistic, and in any case, so far as I am aware never contemplated a reduction in the Agency's analytical capability. The 1971 reorganization plan in fact was designed, among other things, to strengthen the Agency's analytical role through the establishment of machinery to provide more specific requirements for our analytical work, thus making our analytical production more responsive to the needs of the policymakers.

It was certainly Dr. Schlesinger's announced intent during the time of his leadership of the Agency to do everything possible to improve both the quality and responsiveness of CIA's analytical process, and you may be sure this is my own intent as well.

Sincerely,

W. E. Colby

W. E. Colby

Distribution:

Original - Addressee

1 - Mr. Colby

1 - DDCI

1 - ER

✓ 1 - DDI

1 - D/DCI/IC

1 - D/ONE

1 - OGC

1 - OLC w/basic

OLC/JMM:jmd (17 Aug 73)